

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 ACDA-12 MCE-00 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 /101 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----042812 040256Z /73

O 040125Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
JCS
DOD
CIA
USIA
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - FEBRUARY 3

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR FEBRUARY 3,
1978. FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

Q. THE SADAT VISIT, ITS COMMONLY BEING INTERPRETED IN THE
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PRESS AS A NEW EFFORT BY THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT TO GET
SUPPORT FOR HIS POSITION AND TO TRY TO SORT OF ERODE OR
WEAKEN THE U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. CAN YOU PROVIDE
ANYTHING ON HOW YOU SEE THE VISIT?

A. I CAN ONLY REPEAT TO YOU WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY AND
WHAT WE SAID EARLIER THAN THAT, THAT THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR THE TWO OF THEM TO MEET AT SOME LEISURE AND AT SOME
DISTANCE FROM THE MAIN CHANNEL OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.
I STILL DO NOT WANT TO CHARACTERIZE PRESIDENT SADAT'S
VISIT IN ANY WAY EXCEPT THAT, AND I THINK I'M JUST GOING
TO HAVE TO STAY THERE. THAT, BASICALLY, AMOUNTS TO WHAT
I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY.

Q. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE PHRASE YESTERDAY OR TODAY.

WHAT IS THIS "DISTANCE FROM THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS?"

A. THIS IS NOT A PROFOUND, POLITICAL REMARK. IT SIMPLY
MEANS THAT THEY ARE GOING TO BE IN SOME SECLUSION AT
CAMP DAVID. THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE A TIME TO TALK AT
SOME LENGTH. THE PRESIDENT DID FEEL THAT HE WANTED TO
CONTINUE THE CONVERSATIONS THAT THE TWO OF THEM HAD AT
ASWAN EARLIER LAST MONTH. BUT I DON'T MEAN TO IMPLY
ANYTHING BY THAT, EXCEPT THAT THEY, PHYSICALLY, ARE
GOING TO BE LEANING BACK AND TALKING AND THAT WE DID
NOT, AND DO NOT, EXPECT ANY DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE

NEGOTIATIONS TO COME OUT OF THEIR MEETINGS.

Q. "RETREAT AND SECLUSION," COMMONLY MEAN A PERIOD OF REEVALUATION OR REASSESSMENT. WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE U.S. POLICY ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, WHICH WAS LAST STATED, I SUPPOSE, BY THE PRESIDENT AT ASWAN -- OR MOST COMPLETELY STATED -- IS BEING REEVALUATED SINCE APPARENTLY IT ISN'T GOING DOWN VERY EASILY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS?

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A. NO, I HAVE NO REASON TO AGREE WITH THAT, AND I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU AVENUES TO FOLLOW THAT ARE BLIND ALLEYS. WHEN I SAY "RETREAT," AGAIN I'M SAYING IT IS A PHYSICAL THING, AND I'M ONLY TRYING TO CHARACTERIZE THE NATURE OF THEIR MEETINGS RATHER THAN THE SUBSTANCE OR THE CONTENT OF THEM. I'M SURE THAT THEY WILL DISCUSS WHAT YOU REFERRED TO, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO FEEL THAT THERE IS ANY KIND OF REEVALUATION OF THAT PARTICULAR PRINCIPLE. I JUST DON'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THEM IN ADVANCE OF WHAT THEY COME OUT WITH THEMSELVES WHEN THEY ARE FINISHED, FRANKLY. SO I REALLY DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER I CAN GIVE YOU ON THAT.

Q. IS THERE A DECISION AS YET ON THE SALE OF THE F-5E TO EGYPT?

A. I CHECKED THAT AND THERE IS NONE.

Q. OR THE F-16?

A. THERE HAVE BEEN NO DECISIONS ON ANY OF THOSE PROJECTED SALES IN ANY OF THE AREAS THAT YOU MENTION, EGYPT, ISRAEL, SAUDI ARABIA.

Q. IS THERE A TIMETABLE FOR DECIDING ON IT?

A. I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY SET TIMETABLE.

Q. WILL THEY BE DECIDED BY THE TIME SADAT ARRIVES?

A. I DON'T THINK SO. I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT SAYS THAT THERE IS ANY TIMETABLE OR THAT THERE IS ANY

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DECISION TO BE MADE BEFORE HE ARRIVES.

Q. WASN'T THERE THE IMPLICATION IN WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE THAT THERE WOULD BE A DECISION BY THE END OF THIS WEEK?

A. I THINK PERHAPS HE SAID THAT, AND THAT STANDS, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING I CAN ADD TO IT OR ENLIGHTEN YOU ABOUT IT.

Q. WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION?

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION.

Q. WITHOUT ANY DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE END OF THE VISIT, DO YOU INCLUDE IN THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT EGYPT WILL GET F-5 FIGHTERS?

A. NO. I'M NOT RULING ANYTHING OUT EXCEPT TO REITERATE THAT WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

Q. YOU DON'T INCLUDE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT F-5S AS A DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS?

A. I WOULDN'T DIRECTLY INCLUDE THAT, NO, AND I'M NOT IMPLYING AGAIN THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT. I'M NOT SAYING THERE WON'T BE; I'M NOT SAYING THERE WILL BE. I'M SIMPLY NOT MAKING A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THOSE TWO THINGS.

Q. MAY I ASK DURING THE SADAT VISIT, WILL THERE BE A CONSULTATION WITH THE RUSSIANS? WILL THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR IN ANY WAY BE CONTACTED? IS THAT PROPOSED OR IN THE WORKS OR ANYTHING?
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A. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Q. WHEN BEGIN WAS HERE, WAS THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR CALLED IN FOR ANYTHING?

A. I DON'T REMEMBER IT, BUT I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK AND LOOK IT UP.

Q. WOULD YOU EXPECT TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN COME TO WASHINGTON DURING HIS TOUR AND TO CONFER WITH SECRETARY VANCE?

A. I THINK THERE IS THE PROBABILITY THAT HAS BEEN STATED EARLIER THAT THEY WILL MEET. I DON'T THINK THAT ANY DATE HAS BEEN SET. IN FACT, I DON'T THINK THE FACT OF THEIR MEETING HAS BEEN QUITE NAILED DOWN. IF THERE IS A MEETING, I WOULD EXPECT IT TO BE HERE IN WASHINGTON.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OF ECONOMIC AID TO

EGYPT DURING THIS TRIP?

A. I DON'T WANT TO TRY TO PREDICT THINGS. I REALLY THINK, APART FROM WHAT I'VE SAID ABOUT BREAKTHROUGHS IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, I DON'T WANT TO TRY TO PREVIEW WHAT MAY COME OUT. THERE IS JUST NO WAY I COULD KNOW THAT NOW, AND CERTAINLY NO WAY I COULD PREDICT IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TODAY ON THE QUESTION OF SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAIN NEW ON THE QUESTION OF THE SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK.
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Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION AS TO THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE SINAI PRESENTLY?

A. THE U.S. POSITION ON SETTLEMENTS IS AS WE HAVE STATED IT, AND I'M NOT GOING TO REPEAT IT FOR YOU HERE. IT'S IN THE RECORD ABOUT A THOUSAND TIMES.

Q. WHAT I'M SAYING IS, HAS IT BEEN FAVORED TO KEEP THOSE SETTLEMENTS OR RELINQUISH THEM?

A. WHY DON'T YOU LOOK IT UP AND YOU CAN INFORM YOURSELF MUCH MORE FULLY THAN I CAN TELL YOU HERE. VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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